U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hunting

on the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

July 16, 2013

Attention Hunters

Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge intends to open to hunting (big game and small game) in Fall 2013, per Pennsylvania Game Commission Regulations. The opening of new refuge lands to hunting must be completed through an approved Opening Package (submitted in Spring 2013). The opening of all new nation-wide lands to hunting is collectively announced in a Final Rule (50 CFR Part 32, 2013–2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations; Final Rule). We anticipate that the Final Rule for 2013-2014 may be issued sometime in September 2013; however, *until this rule is issued, the refuge remains closed to hunting.*

We are dedicated to hunting the refuge in 2013 and are working to issue permits at the earliest possible time. Hunters wishing to participate in the 2013 hunt should contact the refuge as soon as possible; *14 permits will be issued on a first-come first-served basis.* In order to be considered for the 2013 hunt, please contact refuge staff directly at 973-702-7266 (extension 10). Staff will walk hunters through the application process, which includes a $20 permit application fee (charged only if a permit is issued). Permits will be issued as soon as the above-mentioned rule is published. Refuge-specific regulations and maps will accompany the refuge hunting permit.

Big game permits will cover hunting for deer, bear, and turkey (archery-only for deer and bear; archery and shotgun only for turkey). Small game permits will cover those species listed in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunting and Trapping Guide, but will be limited to shotgun-only. The use of dogs will not be permitted. All permits will cover the time period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

We are hopeful that hunting at Cherry Valley NWR will be approved in time for the October 5, 2013 archery (deer) opener. However, we have no control over the timing of the rule's publication. Hunters should not expect any guarantees as to the timing in which permits can be issued. We thank you for your understanding and your cooperation in this matter.

Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, established in 2009, is located in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Public hunting is permitted on more than 3.9 million acres in Pennsylvania during specific times of the year. The hunting program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.